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## Senate

(Legislative Day of Wednesday, September 17, 2008)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, today we open our hearts to You as we remember that You are our help in ages past and our hope for years to come. Lead our Senators as they recall Your care over our Nation in the past and Your mercy which follows us all our days. Bless the many people who work long hours on the Senate staffs and reward them for their diligent faithfulness.

Heal the sick, make strong the wavering, guide the perplexed, and befriend the lonely. Today, may faith replace fear, justice triumph over greed, and peace conquer strife.

We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, October 2, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning following leader remarks, we are going to be in morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no rollcall votes today.

### TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

CHUCK HAGEL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to spend just a few minutes today talking about CHUCK HAGEL, the Senator from the State of Nebraska.

I was raised in an environment where things were physical—football, baseball, boxing, fighting, and being tough. That was important. And as I have looked through the Senate over these years, there is no one that fits that bill more than CHUCK HAGEL. The senior Senator from the State of Nebraska is both physically and mentally very tough.

Senator HAGEL is a person who suffered multiple broken noses playing high school and college football and, as

we read in his book, an occasional scuffle off the field. Senator HAGEL is a man who won a football scholarship to go to college because of his athletic prowess but had to change his plans when injury left him with an uncorrected pinched nerve in his neck.

Senator HAGEL is a man who risked his own life on many occasions, but on one occasion risked his own life and suffered terribly to save his brother's life in the jungle of Cambodia during the Vietnam conflict. Senator HAGEL is a man who still carries shrapnel from his heroic uniformed service to our Nation.

Senator HAGEL tells the story in his book about his childhood, that when he and his brother Tom were growing up, the Hagel family moved around Nebraska to seven different houses in small Nebraska towns. The seven places he lived formed a loop around the State. So when CHUCK first ran for the Senate in 1996, he could go almost anywhere in Nebraska and tell local crowds, "it's good to be home."

When CHUCK HAGEL's draft number was called in 1967, he was given an order to ship out to Germany after being inducted. But he said: I don't want to go to Germany. The war is in Vietnam. So he asked to change his orders to go to Vietnam where the action was. What this young man from Nebraska believed was that fighting a war meant going to the front lines, not someplace thousands of miles away. So that is where he wound up.

Since the Sullivan brothers' deaths in World War II, it was not very often that siblings found themselves in the same combat zone fighting, but that isn't what happened in this situation with the Hagel brothers. No one really knows how—they think it was a stroke of luck, but it remains a bit of a mystery—CHUCK HAGEL and Tom Hagel wound up in the same infantry, same

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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